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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

JANUARY 27th, 1874.

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By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,
Chief Clerk.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF MANAGERS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REFORMATION

AND

INSTRUCTION

FOR

COLORED CHILDREN.

ANNAPOLIS:

S. S. MILLS & L. F. COLTON,

Printers to the House of Delegates.

1874.

R E P O R T.

To the Honorable

The General Assembly of Maryland:

GENTLEMEN:—The Board of Managers of the “House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children,” respectfully present their first Annual Report. In doing so it is their special gratification that they can congratulate you, and the people of Maryland in general, that we have an Institution that will confer the blessings of good training and discipline upon a class of persons hitherto deprived of such advantages.

The doors of our Jails and Penitentiaries were open to receive them, but a home was not offered in any Reformatory Institution in which they would be free from the influence of bad example, and under the guidance of those who would cultivate their better natures—become useful men and citizens. We hope to do this good work, to diminish the number of prison inmates, and prove that we have really a House of Reformation and Instruction which will diffuse its blessings throughout our State, and make it the debtor, however liberal may be its contributions.

The discipline is paternal. There is no semblance of prison life, a home is provided where no bolts or bars confine the inmates, either by day or night, and after a few weeks they generally show no disposition to escape. There are at present seventy-two boys in the Institution, and no boarding-school has a more contented class of pupils than those under the care of General John W. Horn, Superintendent, whose mild, yet firm discipline, and the zeal and energy with which he discharges his duties have secured the approbation of the Board, and won the confidence and affection of those under his care. His report will be found encouraging and satisfactory.

An Act of Incorporation was passed in 1870 by the Legislature, and twelve citizens were named, who were declared a body politic and corporate, by the name and style of "House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children." Section 3rd says: The estate and concerns of said corporation shall be managed and conducted by sixteen managers, of whom twelve shall be elected by members of the Association, two appointed by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, and two by the Governor. The money conditions of the charter were, that five thousand (\$5,000) dollars should be paid out of any unappropriated money in the Treasury for the end and benefit of the House of Reformation, for the period of two years. But before the Comptroller should issue his warrants for the first quarterly payment, the managers were required to furnish satisfactory proof that the sum of thirty thousand (\$30,000) dollars had been collected by private subscriptions. A vigorous effort was made to effect an organization and raise the money. An address was issued to the public, pointing out the importance to the State of an Institution of the kind proposed, and soliciting contributions from our citizens. An agent was employed to call upon them in person, and Committees from the Board were appointed to aid in the good work. A voice from our Grand Juries had gone forth year after year, urging the necessity for having a place of detention to reform the many negro children who were committed to the jail, there being no other place of commitment.

The immediate erection of such an Institution was strongly recommended as a matter of social and moral necessity, as negro children were then serving out sentences in the jail.

Judge Gilmore and A. Leo Knott, Esq., Prosecuting Attorney, added the weight of their testimony, not only to the usefulness, but to the necessity of such an Institution. Fortified and encouraged by such strong testimony, the agent, Mr. N. Noyes, and the Committees, went encouragingly to work, and labored during the years 1870-'71 and '72. After long and patient work and waiting, the amount named in the charter was more than realized, viz., \$38,822.09; of the private subscriptions \$22,600 were included as the value of the farm of Chettenham, which was the handsome donation of

Enoch Pratt, Esq., and was accepted by the Comptroller as the equivalent in cash. This enabled the Board to call upon the Treasurer of the State for the ten thousand dollars promised on the condition of \$30,000 being raised by private subscription.

In 1872 an application was made to the Legislature, which granted an appropriation of twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars for 1872 and '73, ten thousand for each year, provided we could, from other sources, raise an equal amount. The City Council of Baltimore made an appropriation of ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars for 1872, and ten thousand (\$10,000) for 1873. This enabled us to obtain the State appropriations for said years.

The contributions of money and material received from various sources are as follows :

From private subscriptions.....	\$38,822 09
“ State appropriation for 1870.....	6,250 00
“ “ “ “ 1872.....	10,000 00
“ “ “ “ 1873.....	10,000 00
“ City Council appropriation for 1872.....	10,000 00
“ “ “ “ 1873.....	10,000 00

\$85,072 09

To which add, yet due by the State.....	3,750 00
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\$88,822 09

Donations of material, farming utensils, hardware, clothing, provisions, &c.....	1,177 91
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A sum total of.....	\$90,000 00
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Of this sum \$40,000.00 are contributions from private sources.

The amounts contributed are accounted for as follows :

Value of farm.....	\$22,600 00
Payments on new buildings.....	39,930 80
Enlarging and repairing the old farm mansion	1,008 09
Farming utensils, furniture, bedding, clothing for boys, wages for general help for farming and gardening, provisions and salaries.....	16,694 55
Cash on hand Jan. 10, 1874.....	4,838 65
Cash yet due by the State.....	3,750 00
Sundry contributions of material.....	1,177 91

\$90,000 00

The amount due on main building is.....	\$ 7,265 00
“ “ Family “	4,645 00
Sundry bills to be paid.....	1,000 00
Amount yet necessary to finish and furnish the building.....	5,000 00
	\$17,910 00

To meet these several demands, will require the earnest assistance of the friends of the Institution.

A contract to erect suitable buildings was entered into with Messrs. West & Carroll in the fall of 1872. Under the most favorable circumstances we could not have the buildings ready for occupancy in less than a year; but so great was the demand of the State, (“many children under twelve years of age being in our prisons for want of a suitable place to put them,”) that the Board, desirous of relieving the public anxiety in regard to the reception of colored children, decided to enlarge and otherwise improve the old Farm Mansion, and receive all they could at as early a day as possible. On the fourth day of February, 1873, the first two boys, numbers one and two, were received. The number rapidly increased, crowding our limited room; but all were properly cared for, and the Superintendent now reports: “We have a school of happy and contented boys.” Though upon an open farm, but few of the boys have escaped; of those who did, nearly all have been sent back; some of them returned and gave themselves up voluntarily. The absence of all apparent hindrance to escape, seems to remove the desire to do so. After the trial of a few weeks, during which time the home-sickness wears off, and they become acquainted with their companions, they seem, as the Superintendent says, contented and happy.

By the terms of our charter we are to receive colored children; this includes males and females. The managers consider it entirely impracticable to receive and manage both in the same Institution. The experience of the Superintendent and Managers of the House of Refuge justifies the Board in this opinion. They tried the experiment in houses and yards, separated by high walls, yet failed to maintain that

discipline so essential to good government. We respectfully ask a modification of the charter in this respect.

The Farm is situated in Prince George's county, Maryland, forty-five miles from Baltimore, on the line of the Baltimore and Potomac Rail Road, which passes through it about a half mile from the buildings. The Board expects to donate enough land to the Railroad Company for a station and post-office, to be called "Cheltenham," the name by which the Farm is known. This will add much to our convenience and comfort. The land is a light loam, portions of it being mixed with gravel and sand. It is easily cultivated and well suited to the growth of fruit and vegetables, to the culture of which the boys are admirably adapted. The yield of vegetables during the last season was abundant, there being hundreds of bushels of potatoes, turnips, onions, &c., and seven thousand heads of cabbage stored away for winter use, after the wants of the table during the summer and fall had been supplied. The corn and oat crops were satisfactory, there being enough for home consumption. The wheat crop promises well. We think we shall be able to supply the Institution with flour, vegetables and pork, and have a surplus for sale. In addition to the upland, there are more than one hundred acres of good meadow land, upon which large quantities of hay can be raised for feeding and fattening stock.

The Farm is well watered. The Piscataway, a branch of the Patuxent, flows along one side; it will afford good water power for a grist-mill. There are several never-failing springs at various places; three or four not many yards from the buildings. The water gushes in large volume from the sides of a small ravine and flows over a pebbly bottom, forming quite a picturesque and attractive sight. One of the springs supplies a ram that forces water into a large tank in the top of the main building, lately finished. The situation is high and healthy, commanding an extensive view. There has been but little sickness among the inmates; at the time of making this Report, word comes, "All doing well."

The Buildings.—For a description of these, we refer you to the accompanying report of the architect, Mr. Webber. It will be found full and satisfactory. Other buildings will

soon be required, as the number of boys is increasing, and the increase may be greater during the present year. This will necessitate the spending of more money.

We respectfully ask for an appropriation of ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars each, for the years 1874 and '75, for needed current expenses, and fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars for building purposes, to be called for in quarterly instalments, as it may be needed. This may seem extravagant, but if we estimate the cost of arresting, trying and supporting criminals, and think of the evil they inflict and entail upon the community, we will find the proposed expenditure economy instead of extravagance. Boys are now serving a term of two years in our City Jail, and a large number could be found there at all times. There are many in the Penitentiary at the present time, but none have been sentenced to either the Jail or Penitentiary since the "House of Reformation" at Cheltenham was opened. We ask you, therefore, to consider it a State Institution, and entitled to the fostering care of the State. It is a School, an Agricultural School, and not a prison. Its inmates are the wards of the State, receiving instruction that will qualify them for positions of usefulness in the community. The plan proposed for their reformation and instruction is not an untried experiment. In 1858, the State Reform School, near Lancaster, Ohio, opened its doors for the reception of juvenile offenders; since then 1,822 boys have been received, 1,379 discharged, and 443 are now enjoying its advantages. The report for 1873, says: "To-day the Institution stands as a proud monument of the great success of the human and philanthropic enterprise." In Indiana, Iowa, New Jersey, and other States, are similar Institutions, each one performing its great mission in behalf of the fallen and unfortunate wards of the State.

The time is short since it was discovered that an open farm, with comparative freedom from restraint, is much better for young offenders than prison walls. The prison system of our country is a relic of barbarism, and needs reformation in accordance with the enlightened and progressive spirit of the age. The plan adopted by the various Reform Schools of the country, is a wide departure from the old system,

which is one of punishment and not of reformation. It has nothing to elevate the individual in sentiment and feeling, "to win him from vice and attach him to virtue," but it hardens his nature, and turns him into the community, at the expiration of his allotted term, a greater criminal than he was when he received his sentence. Far different is it with those who go out from our Reformatory Institutions. All the influence surrounding them is good, and a large majority of them become useful and respectable citizens. We have seventy-two boys who, for various offences, were committed by our Courts to the care of the Institution. They have been saved from prison life and its pernicious effects, and have been under the influence of good discipline and moral training. They have given but little trouble, their conduct being generally very good. They performed most of the labor on the farm during the past summer, "working in squads under the supervision of one of their own number, and in no instance was the confidence reposed in them betrayed." We hope in due time to be able to furnish the farming interest of our State with a good class of laborers, now so greatly needed. When our family building shall be completed, we will have a school-room and other apartments, well furnished, and admirably suited to the needs of the inmates.

Since the organization of the Board, we have lost two valuable members, James Baynes and Henry W. Drakely. They were efficient, earnest workers, had the interest of the cause at heart, and to them we are indebted for much encouragement and valuable assistance.

Reviewing the work of the past year, through all the disadvantages under which we labored, the result is a success. With this to encourage us, we are sure the future will prove the usefulness of the Institution and secure for it the approbation and continued confidence of the people, and the authorities of our State

Respectfully submitted.

(Signed on behalf of the Board of Managers.)

JOHN R. COX,
President.

WM. M. BOONE,
Secretary.

